

Prof. A. Gray, Cambridge.

My Dear Sir,

By request of our friend M^r. Porter, I send you specimens of Crypsi Virginia of Nuttall, not labelled by himself, but by Dr. Pickering, which is exactly the same. It is really a Crypsi, but nothing else but the C. Schoenoides of Europe, as I have ascertained it from numerous specimens in Menzies's and the herb. of the Academy of Sciences.

As I did mention to you in previous letter, I began a general catalogue of the Amer. plants; I finished the Ranunculaceae, which filled up 13 pages large foolscap. I was arrested at that point by a very severe inflammation of the eyes, which kept me 8 or 10 days in my room, without being able to do anything. I had, mean-while, ample opportunity to reflect upon the task I had undertaken and the enormous length of it, which would inevitably terminate in the non-acceptance of my work for publication in the Memoirs of the Academy, or those of the Philosophical Society. I therefore changed my plans and, desiring to do something useful to the science, (I who had done nothing as yet) I planned another task - that of publishing a catalogue of the new species that

had been described since the publication of Torr. & Gr. flora
and as far as that work goes. Had I been able to accomplish
it, a student of the Botany of North America, would have
had the chance, with Dr. Torrey, Thurber & Eaton's forthcoming
publications, to occupy himself, without being obliged to be
surrounded with some 25 or 30 different publications of
difficult access. Through the liberality of Dr. Willson, I had
obtained new works such, especially, as Weddell's annals,
and, recovered from my first attack of inflammation of
the eyes, I went to work again in good earnest —
But lo! after 3 or 4 days, I relapsed again, and
found myself in the necessity of giving up all my plans
of usefulness. It is an awful thing, really, to be old
and infirm, but I can't help it — I must resign myself
to the few minutes, so awfully delectable to me.

At the present moment, after a long letter to Mrs.
Porter and the reading of my newspaper, my eyes
are in a dreadful state and I am obliged to shorten
my letter to the dimensions; otherwise, I would take
the liberty of sending you a few remarks on the last
edition of the Manual, but for another time!

I have perused your charming little work: How Plants
grow! It is an admirable résumé of the Science of
Botany, simplified to its most condensed and clear expression.
Any one could become a good Botanist with this little
work. With respect to your lady who, Mr. Buckley tells me,
has been good enough to inquire about me, I remain,
my dear sir, your nearly blind friend and devoted
servant E. Durand

Excuse my scribbling & bad English.

Please let me know in your next whether
I am right in the two Velfa I send you herewith.



Durand, Elias. 1846. "Durand, Elias M. undated [1863] [2nd item]." *Elias Durand letters to Asa Gray*

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